



June 2010
Volume 2 Issue 6

JAXSTRONG

jacksonville

OUR WORK • OUR PEOPLE • OUR DISTRICT

Bugs, bugs, bugs everywhere...



Photographed above are Megamelus scutellaris, the small planthoppers native to South America that are expected to suppress water hyacinth that has long been a problem for navigation in the St. Johns River. The insects were released into the river north of Palatka in Putnam County May 18, 2010. (Photo courtesy USDA) (Story on page 3).

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...and more

COMMANDER'S *Corner*

Message from Col. Al Pantano

Operating in turbulent waters

A week ago, we entered into what is anticipated to be the most active hurricane season we have seen in several years. Coupled with Lake Okeechobee water levels, ongoing improvements to the Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD), emergency permitting in response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and ARRA execution in the fourth quarter it should come as no surprise that Jacksonville District will be sustaining a high operational level throughout the summer and into the fall.

This month's issue of JaxStrong focuses on operational issues and our Operations Division. Members of the district's crisis action team met at the Duval County Emergency Operations Center June 3 to discuss our Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and its implementation if a hurricane strikes in the Jacksonville area. Some critical actions are being generated as a result of this exercise; please work with your supervisors and senior leaders to ensure our readiness to execute our COOP if and when the need arises.

I spent many hours in public meetings the last few weeks talking with the people in the communities east, west and south of Lake Okeechobee and with those who are passionate about the estuaries on the east and west coasts of Florida. I have listened to their concerns, and I have explained the difficult decisions we must make in the interest of public safety, our top priority. To state it simply, when water levels in the lake get too high, the ability of the HHD to hold the waters back and prevent devastating floods is weakened and we have no option but to release water from the lake. As Jacksonville District team members, you need to understand this difficult balance too; please take a few minutes to read my Opinion/Editorial piece, which was provided to south Florida media outlets last month.

We've always heard that oil and water don't mix and sadly that is the reality in the environmental nightmare we are witnessing in the Gulf of Mexico from the explosion on the British Petroleum, PLC, off-shore oil rig "Deepwater Horizon." Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey and Aaron Stormant met with Cmdr. Sean Reilly, head of the Incident Command Post (ICP) in St. Petersburg and Dan Kimball, superintendent for the National Parks Service May 20 regarding Jacksonville District's response to the nation's worst environmental disaster in history. Emergency permit procedures are in place and authority has been delegated to Jacksonville, Mobile and New Orleans Districts. We can respond rapidly with a full range of scientific and technical expertise, working together with federal agencies, private industry and non-governmental organizations.

Our invasive species management program, part of our Operations Division, is also highlighted in this issue of JaxStrong. Jacksonville District is on track to become the Corps' Invasive Species Management Center of Expertise. Along with our partners, we showed off some of that expertise at a May 18 release event of a small plant hopper named *Megamelus scutellaris*. This nearly microscopic bug generated some major public interest. The story on page three explains how *Megamelus* will be working to control water hyacinth.

The operations theme continues with articles about the annual Intracoastal Waterway Inspection Tour conducted on the survey vessel Florida, a feature on our new Family Readiness Network coordinator, Maria Eggers and several recreation and water safety stories. With the summer season now upon us, I hope that you will take some time to relax and refresh, enjoy the sun and the surf, and always keep safety in mind.

I'm going to conclude this month's column by saying happy birthday! Check out birthday wishes from your co-workers on the JaxStrong YouTube channel. Two hundred and thirty-five years ago, the United States Army was established to fight and win our Nation's wars. From the Revolutionary War to the current operations taking place around the world, our Soldiers remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 235th birthday commemorates America's Army – Soldiers, Families and Civilians – who are achieving a level of excellence unseen anywhere else in the world. Being Army Strong goes beyond physical endurance and mental preparedness. It encompasses an indomitable spirit, and high ethical and moral values. These are not only desirable traits in a person, but in a nation that wishes to live up to the ideals and vision of its founders. We are "America's Army: The Strength of the Nation." ♦

Army Strong. BUILDING STRONG®. JaxStrong.

Alfred A. Pantano, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander



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JaxStrong is electronically published monthly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, to provide information about the people, activities and projects of the district. JaxStrong is distributed in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. Questions about, or submissions to, JaxStrong should be directed to the Corporate Communications Office. The editor can be contacted by telephone at 904-232-1667. Content in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official view of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense.



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Mighty Megamelus to the rescue

Story by Barry Vorse

A tiny insect about the size of a flea may be the key to suppressing water hyacinth, an invasive aquatic plant, which has often choked Florida's navigable waters. Officials from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the St. Johns River Water Management District, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers gathered May 18 at the Edgefield Recreation Site in Palatka to release *Megamelus scutellaris*, a South American plant hopper, on water hyacinths. Perhaps best described as a miniature grasshopper, the insect has been studied by the USDA for the past five years. It eats only water hyacinth, making it "plant specific," a federal requirement of any insect imported to the U.S. to control invasive plants.

"Where we held the ceremony is no more than five miles away from where the first water hyacinth was introduced by farmers in the early 1800s," said Jacksonville District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey. "This effort was most certainly a collaborative effort by the four agencies involved."

After the release of the plant into the wild, Congress enacted the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899. The act addressed a number of navigation issues and authorized the Corps to control the water hyacinth and other aquatic plants in navigable channels.

"From that beginning, the Jacksonville District has gone on to become a center of expertise for the control of this type of vegetation," Rainey said. "And we have been treating it ever since. You may recall how the St. Johns looked in the sixties and seventies when it was sometimes

rare to see open water on the river in downtown Jacksonville. Over the years we have gotten better at how we approached this problem."

"This is an important day in our work," said Dr. Phil Tipping, a top research entomologist with the USDA. Tipping's research showed releasing *Megamelus* into the river would be an ideal bio-control for controlling the invasive water hyacinth.

In the days following the event, Tipping planned to spread thousands of *Megamelus* in a water storage area near farm fields around the Putnam-St. Johns County line.

"I am so glad to see young people in attendance," Tipping said, referring to about 30 Interlachen High School students. "We are doing this so they, the future generations, can enjoy areas such as the Edgefield site."

The release at the site was primarily financed by the FWC, which provided more than \$300,000 for the project. Don Schmitz, a research program manager in the FWC's Invasive Plant Management Section praised Tipping.

"Phil and his people really made this happen," Schmitz said. "They put extra effort into completing all of the research needed before introducing a bio-control into an ecosystem in record time."

Special attendees on hand for the event were Mary E. Murphy and Lynn A. Hoffman, who donated the property for the Edgefield Recreation Site to the state of Florida in 2001.

"We are so happy to see things like today's ceremony happen on the property," said Murphy.



A vial contains Megamelus scutellaris that were released into the river north of Palatka in Putnam County May 18. The insect will serve as a biocontrol, feeding on much of the water hyacinth thus suppressing the plants in navigable areas and hard-to-reach portions of the river. (Photo by Jasmine Chopra)



(Left) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey and students from Interlachen High School released Megamelus scutellaris into the river north of Palatka in Putnam County May 18; (Right) Don C. Schmitz, research program manager with the Invasive Plant Management Section of FWC and Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey look at a vial filled with Megamelus scutellaris. (Photos by Jasmine Chopra)



Millions of visitors enjoy Jacksonville District's recreation areas each year

Story by Nancy J. Sticht

More than six million people travel to South Florida to visit Lake Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Waterway annually to camp, fish, bike, hike or just relax and enjoy nature's beauty.

Lake Okeechobee, at 730 square miles, is the nation's second largest fresh water lake and home to more than 60 species of fish, including largemouth bass, bluegill, Okeechobee catfish and black crappie. The 154-mile Okeechobee Waterway runs through Lake Okeechobee, extending from the Atlantic Ocean at Stuart via the St. Lucie Canal to the Gulf of Mexico at Ft. Myers via the Caloosahatchee River. With its system of five locks and dams, the waterway provides safe and economical commercial and recreational navigation, saving about 206 miles of travel time over the open water route around Florida's peninsula. Salt water fish species such as tarpon and snook may be found near the W.P. Franklin and St. Lucie Locks.

Three Corps-managed campgrounds with 109 campsites, including 16 boat-in sites, five Corps-managed boat ramps and three visitor centers ring the lake and provide both recreational and educational opportunities. More information about these facilities is available on Jacksonville District's Web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Operations/Branches/SFOO/recreation.htm.

Visitors can also enjoy nearly 112 miles of trails for walking, hiking, rollerblading, bicycle and horseback riding around Lake Okeechobee. Designated as part of the Florida National Scenic Trail in 1993, the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail is an approximately 110-mile trail encircling the lake. More than half of the trail is paved, and the remainder consists of a two-track gravel roadway on top of the 35-foot high Herbert Hoover Dike. Because portions of the trail may be closed periodically during



Hiking along the 112-mile Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail provides an up-close-and-personal view of nature. (USACE photo)

the ongoing Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation, visitors are advised to consult the South Florida Operations Office at 863-983-8101 prior to visiting.

Facilities such as boat ramps, playgrounds, and picnic shelters with electricity, water and grills are available; in some areas, day use fees are charged for use of the boat ramps and swimming beach. Annual passes are available for \$30.00 at the South Florida Operations Office, the W.P. Franklin visitor center and the W.P. Franklin North and St. Lucie South campgrounds.

Volunteers represent the Corps to Lake Okeechobee's millions of visitors and play a vital role in the success of Jacksonville District's recreation and environmental stewardship programs. Each year, approximately 350 volunteers provide more than 16,500 hours of service. Volunteers work as visitor center hosts, day use park hosts, photographers, manatee watchers to assist in recording manatee sightings and behavior at the locks and dams, and water safety trainers to teach the Corps' water safety message to more than 20,000 students each year. For further information, contact volunteer coordinator Phil Hart at 863-983-8101. ♦

Volunteer to help save lives this summer

Story by Nancy J. Sticht

A new partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Operations Center for Water Safety and the national Collaborative Summer Libraries Reading Program (CSLRP) has opened the door for employees to volunteer through their local libraries to provide materials, exhibits and programs to promote Corps water safety programs.

CSLRP is a grassroots consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials by sharing ideas, expertise and products through public libraries. The theme of this year's reading program is "Water" and programs may be tailored for children, teen or adult age groups.

In a May 4 memorandum, Steve Stockton, civil works director, announced the program and encouraged team members from all disciplines to partner with their local libraries to share their civil works water-related knowledge with their communities through water-related materials and activities.



Bobber the water safety dog (photographed above) is one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mascots used to teach youth important rules for staying safe around water. Safety information geared toward children and their caregivers can be found at Bobber's Web site: <http://bobber.info>. (USACE photo)

If you are interested in sharing the life-saving message of water safety through your local library, please contact Jean Pavlov, Corporate Communications Office, at 904-232-1106 and provide your name, contact information, and the name and address of your local library. Depending on response, Operations Division staff will offer water safety education and outreach training for interested volunteers and provide water safety information and materials and CCO will assist with coordination with local libraries. ♦



Canaveral Harbor sand bypass project completed

Story Nancy J. Sticht

The Brevard County North Reach beach, which had suffered erosion during the 2008 hurricane season, is now ready for the summer, courtesy of a Jacksonville District renourishment project completed April 14. The project site is located at Canaveral Harbor on the central east coast of Florida.

Great Lakes Dock and Dredge (GLDD) of Oak Brook, Ill., under a contract funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Program, dredged 642,000 cubic yards of sand and transferred it from the north side of the inlet to the south side of the jetty.

A monitoring survey and report, a requirement of the permit issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, will complete the \$8.7 million project in September of this year. "When completed, this project will have the dual benefit of reducing channel maintenance and providing storm damage protection for the south beaches," said Osvaldo Rodriguez, project manager.

This is the fourth construction of the sand bypass project at Canaveral Harbor, which began in 1995. The project dredges sand that builds up along the shoreline on the north side of the harbor entrance and places it along approximately two miles of shoreline on the south side, replicating the natural movement of sand along the coastline. The sand is pumped through a 30-inch diameter steel pipeline that is temporarily placed across the bottom of the inlet channel. The project is repeated approximately every six years.

The project requires that the dredge "cut" its way toward the shoreline and work immediately along the beach. This was a very challenging endeavor for GLDD's 305-foot-long dredge Texas. During the three weeks of work, the dredge crew had a front-seat view of the launch of the space shuttle Discovery, which lifted off from Cape Canaveral at dawn on April 5, just a few miles north of the project site.

Dr. Kevin Bodge, engineering consultant for Port Canaveral, said that the Corps, the Canaveral Port Authority, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Air Force 45th Space Wing, along with many other agencies, worked together to move the project through construction, including coordinating the dredge vessel's activities near the space launch facilities. ♦



Aerial view of the transfer of sand at Canaveral Harbor, the first phase of the Canaveral Harbor Sand Bypass project. A monitoring report is now being developed. (USACE photo)



MAKE WAVES THIS SUMMER



EXTREME WATER SPORTS for PROS

Visit your local library and Corps of Engineers lake.

www.corpslakes.us



PLAY IT SAFE!



(Top to bottom) Whitewater rafting is one of many activities enjoyed at Corps recreation sites. (Photo by visitor Bill Donnellan, courtesy Corps Lake Web site); A wake boarder catches air at Blue Springs Lake, a Kansas City District recreation area. (Photo by visitor Michael Watkins, courtesy Corps Lake Web site.)

Corps is nation's leading provider of federal outdoor recreation

Story by Nancy J. Sticht

With nearly 12 million acres of public lands and water, including natural landmarks and cultural resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's leading provider of outdoor recreation on federally-managed public lands in the United States, surpassing even the National Park Service. Through partnerships with public and private organizations and thousands of volunteers at 422 lake and river projects in 43 states, the Corps provides diverse and dynamic outdoor activities that promote a healthy lifestyle. Corps projects also provide economic support for communities, with visitors contributing an estimated \$18 billion annually in economic benefits from product sales and services.

Information about recreation at Corps lakes may be found at the Corps Lakes Gateway, <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm>. Further information may be found, and reservations made, for all federal recreational facilities at www.recreation.gov.

President Obama recently established the 21st Century Strategy for America's Great Outdoors, to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and reconnect Americans to the outdoors. As a Department of Defense agency, the Corps will be involved in identifying existing resources, aligning policies and programs with the new initiative and exploring ways to further the initiative's goals with its partners.

Additionally, a 2009 Corps initiative mapped a new recreation strategy to enable our recreation program to better adapt to changing conditions. In developing a long-term strategy to provide guidance for the national recreation program for the next five to ten years, areas to be analyzed will include partnership products, recreation leases, visitor reporting, communications, shoreline management and staffing and labor analysis. ♦

Enjoy a safe summer!

Children have a natural curiosity and attraction to water. It only takes a moment to turn a day of fun in the sun into tragedy.

Each year, about 200 children drown and several thousand others are treated in hospitals for submersion accidents, accidents that can leave children with permanent brain damage and respiratory health problems.

Whether at the beach or a backyard pool, please take care to watch children at all times when they are in or near the water. Also, don't rely on toys such as inner tubes and water wings to keep children afloat in the water - ensure that they wear properly fitting life jackets when in or near the water. ♦

For more water safety tips, please visit:

<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/safetytips.htm>.

(Photo by Michael Watkins, courtesy Corps Lakes Web site)





An aerial view of Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee. (USACE photo)

Releases to the estuaries are needed, so are solutions

Editorial by Col. Alfred Pantano, Jr., commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

Last week I traveled to Stuart and Fort Myers and delivered a devastating message to the residents of Martin and Lee Counties. I was there to tell this brutal fact: water releases from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries are needed now and they are likely to continue well into the rainy season.

I was there to hear from residents and to enter into a dialogue, as possible.

With Lake Okeechobee close to 15 feet at the beginning of the rainy season (more than two feet above where it should be), those who so dearly love these estuaries heard my technical staff detail the current situation: we must lower lake water levels and our options are limited. If the lake continues to rise, the Herbert Hoover Dike may be in jeopardy.

We know from experience that Lake Okeechobee is a “sleeping giant.” The majority of the time the lake is a benevolent neighbor

(continues on page 8)

Avoid tragedy by using safe boating practices

911 DISPATCH: 911. Do you have an emergency?

CALLER: Yes! We have 14 people in a boating accident. They need to go to a hospital.

911 DISPATCH: Are all the people hurt?

CALLER: Yes!

Story and photos by Jasmine Chopra

By the time the sun had set over the gruesome scene of the Easter 2009 boat crash on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Valley, Fla., five people had died, nine were severely injured and nearly \$50,000 in property damage had resulted. Injuries included skull, neck and spinal fractures, lacerations to internal organs, concussions and more.

Like many accidents, the crash might have never happened had the boat's operators and passengers heeded recommended safety precautions.

“The crash in April of 2009 was, sadly, a perfect example of what never to do while boating,” said Dave Morrison, a boat captain with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.

The National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause of the crash was the inattention of the boat operators, most likely the result of alcohol impairment on the part of the usual operator and inexperience on the part of the designated operator. Alcohol and illicit drugs were found on the boat and in some of the bodies of the victims. Although the operator at the time of the crash was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, she had never before operated a boat. There were also 14 people aboard instead of the maximum capacity of 12.



Photographed above is one of the lifesavers aboard the vessel Florida, Jacksonville District's largest survey vessel.

At the time of the crash, the designated operator was not required by Florida law to have completed a boating safety course. In May of 2009, Florida revised its laws to require persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 to complete a boating safety course before operating a boat.

According to Morrison, a retired U.S. Coastguardsman who has been a licensed boat captain since 1983, completing a boating safety course, avoiding alcohol consumption if operating a boat, proper use of life jackets and situational awareness are keys to making sure boating remains safe and fun.

“Part of what makes boating appealing for many is that it is about freedom and good times with good friends. Often the partying involves alcohol,” said Morrison. “But boating while impaired, distracted, or inexperienced can produce close calls or crashes. It is great to have fun and relax, but you have to be prudent. It's not enough to make sure the operator is sober, you have to make sure the operator knows how to operate the boat.”

(continues on page 10)

Water safety tips, life jacket loaner program help save lives



A Corps park ranger instructs boaters in the proper use of personal flotation devices, or life jackets, while recreating in or near the water. (Photo by Michael Watkins, courtesy Corps Lakes Web site)

Story by Nancy J. Sticht

As the leading provider of recreation on federally-managed lands in the United States and one of the founding members of the National Water Safety Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to promoting water safety practices.

"Here in the state of Florida and the Caribbean, we are blessed to have an abundance of natural resources riches," said Jim Jeffords, chief of Operations Division. "It is our great fortune to have long periods of mild weather, plenty of sun and many beaches and waterways to enjoy with a host of recreational opportunities. Unfortunately, however, summer fun can turn to tragedy in an instant if water safety practices are not used. As a water and natural resources management agency, one of the Corps' closely-related missions is to actively promote water safety all year round."

Jacksonville District operates three campgrounds, five boat ramps and three visitor centers around Lake Okeechobee in south Florida, where, since 2006, the district has provided loaner life jackets/personal flotation devices at its W.P. Franklin and St. Lucie Recreation Areas. "The loaner life jacket program has been very successful and many are taking advantage of it," said Adam Tarplee, natural resources program manager.

Additionally, Jacksonville District's park rangers and volunteers reach thousands of visitors annually with boating and water safety information and visit local schools to teach more than 30,000 elementary school students about water safety. "We are pleased that our combined education and outreach efforts, and our partnerships with a number of local agencies throughout our district, have been effective in promoting water safety," Tarplee added.

Tarplee said that many drowning victims had no intention of being in the water, and most drown within 10-30 feet of safety. "Remembering and practicing these few simple water safety tips helps to save lives," Tarplee emphasized.

- Learn to swim
- Use an appropriate style and fit of personal flotation device, or life jacket
- Watch small children at all times while they are in and around the water
- Take safe boating classes and observe safety and speed guidelines
- Avoid alcohol use while in or on the water
- Never dive into lakes or rivers without checking for depth and obstacles
- Never swim alone ♦

Release to estuaries (continued from page 7)

hidden behind a 35-foot tall earthen berm. But its massive size and shallow depth mean the sleeping Lake Okeechobee can awaken, churn into white-capped waves and rise rapidly. The lake can rise six times faster than we can lower it. As the Commander of the Jacksonville Army Corps of Engineers, my highest priority is to protect public safety by maintaining an intact Herbert Hoover Dike.

I make decisions that protect the HHD above all else, as it is that dam that holds back waters. A breach will flood the communities located on the southern and eastern banks of Lake Okeechobee. Such an event will flood private property and take lives.

I heard your impassioned pleas to spare the estuaries from fresh water releases. I listened to every statement. I do understand. Unfortunately, my options are few: we can hold water in the lake; send it to the east and the west; or send it south. I would send the water south if I could, but the constraints we face are both physical and legal. Besides the law that says I cannot flood private property, there is no capacity in the Water Conservation Areas. Water cannot be pushed on top of water that is already there.

I have heard very clearly what you do not want. I would like to have a dialogue with the public. If you have suggestions we can achieve together, I want to hear them.

In the meantime, we are working as quickly as possible to reinforce the Herbert Hoover Dike. We have a rehabilitation strategy that was developed jointly with national and international experts. We have construction contractors that have the highest level of expertise and experience available. We have received hundreds of millions of dollars in funding even though there are more than a dozen other threatened flood control projects across the nation. HHD rehabilitation is a long-term project, however, and even when completed, it won't mean that we can hold all the water we want within the dike. We will always have to protect the lake's ecology, which is the liquid heart of the south Florida ecosystem. High water levels will cause irreparable harm the lake's ecology.

In May my staff and I travelled to Clewiston, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce, South Bay and Stuart. We will soon be visiting Hendry County and will publicize this information once we have locked in a date, time and place. I value your comments and the opportunity for a productive dialogue, which is also available through our public e-mail address at: PublicMail.CESAJ-CC@usace.army.mil or via our Facebook Fan Page at www.bit.ly/JaxStrong_Facebook_Fan_Page. ♦

Mining federal, state relationships yields collaborative gold

Story by Nancy J. Sticht

With the goal of building relationships through increased communication, Jacksonville District's Regulatory Division hosted a gathering of federal and state partners to discuss issues related to permit decisions for mining activities in Florida. The May 20 event, held in Orlando, was attended by about 50 representatives from Jacksonville District, the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Representatives of U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and U.S. Rep. Bill Posey also attended.

Col. Al Pantano, Jr., Jacksonville District commander, opened the one-day session by explaining that communication, collaboration, commitment and compromise are vital in dealing with the issues surrounding mining in Florida. "We need to consider the cumulative, short- and long-term effects of mining on our environment while also being mindful of endangered species and emerging threats such as climate change and sea level rise," he said.

Attendees agreed that the summit was a good first step in coordination between the federal and state agencies with regulatory responsibilities. "This is a good opportunity for us to meet face-to-face and build relationships," said Joe Oros, SWFWMD. "We want to come away with options for how we can do better." Tom Welborn, EPA, cited the "good integration" that his office has had with the Jacksonville District team on Lake Belt mining issues and expressed his appreciation for the summit. Pantano presented a commander's coin to Welborn in recognition of the productive relationships between the two agencies.

Each participating agency shared their perspectives, case studies and lessons learned in an exchange of information intended to foster improved understanding of roles and responsibilities and more effective decision making.



Approximately 50 representatives of federal and state agencies involved in the review of proposed mining projects gathered in Orlando May 20 for the first Regulatory Mining Summit. (USACE photo)

Jacksonville District announced the creation of a new project delivery team, led by Tunis McElwain, Ft. Myers Regulatory Office and Leah Oberlin, Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory team, with members from across the state that will operate regionally and virtually in developing an overall watershed approach to managing mining regulatory actions. Team members are assigned to one of four focus areas – jurisdiction, alternatives analysis, cumulative impacts and mitigation.

"Our goals are effective, high quality decisions, a consistent, predictable process and usable and exportable products," said McElwain.

"A regional, watershed-wide Environmental Impact Statement may be part of a unified strategy, and we need the expertise of all of the regulatory agencies to develop that product," said Steve Sullivan, chief of the South Permits Branch.

The group plans to meet again this summer to begin building its strategy. "Our focus is on customer inclusiveness," said Pantano. With that in mind, the group will explore ways to expand the collaborative effort to include many diverse stakeholders such as industry representatives and environmental organizations. ♦

10 Commandments of bicycling

1. **Always wear a helmet.** When riding in the dark, wear reflective clothing, use a white light on the front and a red reflector on the back of the bike.
2. **Do a quick ABC check**
Air in the tires
Brakes
Chain, crank and cassette
3. **Obey traffic laws such as riding on the right.** Ride with the slowest traffic, staying farthest to the right. In most states, bicyclists are required to follow the same traffic laws as motorized vehicles.
4. **Ride predictably** and be visible at all times.
5. **At intersections, ride in the farthest right lane** going in your direction.
6. **Scan for traffic and signal** lane changes and turns.
7. **Be prepared for flat tires** and other mechanical emergencies by having tools and know-how.
8. **Control your bike** by practicing bike-handling skills.
9. **Drink before you are thirsty** and eat before you are hungry.
10. **Have fun.** ♦

Source: League of American Bicyclists



Safely enjoying the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. (USACE photo)

Avoid tragedy (continued from page 7)

Morrison recommends that even long-time operators participate in safety courses.

“My father, who has 35 years of boating experience, took a boating safety class and said even he learned things about boating that he never knew.”

Some of Morrison’s earliest memories are of his mother, an American Red Cross water safety instructor, teaching him how to swim. He recommends parents make sure their children learn how to swim at an early age and make sure children use life jackets.

Adam Tarplee, a natural resources program manager with Jacksonville District and an avid boater, agrees.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 90 percent of those who drown in any given year were not wearing life jackets.

In an effort to make water safety education more accessible, Tarplee starred in a water safety podcast, along with “Bobber the Water Safety Dog,” one of the Corps’ mascots used to educate and engage children. The podcast appears on Jacksonville District’s YouTube channel.

Like Morrison, Tarplee recalls time spent aboard a boat since early childhood. While both have extensive experience operating boats, they continue to become educated about boating safety and urge others to do the same.

Among the Corps’ recommendations are ensuring one’s boat has all required safety equipment and that it is fully operational,



Dave Morrison, a boat captain with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, operates Jacksonville District’s largest survey vessel.

refraining from overloading a boat with people or gear, ensuring that all passengers properly wear the right type of life jacket, and properly maintain the boat by following the manufacturer’s guidelines for operation and maintenance.

“Boating is a lot of fun, but it comes with a lot of responsibilities, too, and you must always exercise good judgment,” Tarplee said.

For more information about boating safety, go to:

<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/safetytips.htm> ♦

U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program brings environmental stewards to Jacksonville

Story by Jean Pavlov

The eight visitors – a group of environmentalists, educators and government officials from Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Romania, Thailand and Vietnam – were a long way from home. Guests of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), they visited Jacksonville University April 8 to learn how the United States protects the environment and preserves biodiversity.

Nanciann Regalado, strategic communications and outreach officer for the Everglades Division, gave the group a presentation on the Corps’ goals of restoring the Everglades and efforts to help the Florida panther population. Regalado discussed water quality, storage treatment areas, Everglades agricultural areas and how the Corps and the state are working together to achieve clean water.

Regalado’s presentation on the Florida panther genetic restoration program generated much interest. She explained the vanishing panther population and the introduction of a plan in September 1994 for genetic restoration and management. The plan called for the introduction of Texas panthers, the closest subspecies to the Florida panther. The introduction was carefully designed to avoid genetic swamping of locally-adapted traits in the south Florida population. The genetic restoration plan was implemented



Nanciann Regalado, strategic communications and outreach officer for the Everglades Division, explains the district’s efforts in Everglades restoration during a roundtable discussion with a group of foreign visitors. (Photo by Jean Pavlov)

in 1995 with the release of eight female Texas panthers. Five of the eight Texas panthers produced litters and at least 20 kittens were born in south Florida.

Regalado also talked about the district’s involvement in managing invasive and exotic species, the wood rat, bird populations and legislation related to controlling snake and fish populations.

The Jacksonville University Alumni River House, where the roundtable discussion was held, was a unique stop for the IVLP visitors, none of whom had ever traveled to the United States before. The Marine Science Research Institute, located in the River House,

(continues on page 11)

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway inspection provides smooth sailing for collaborators

Story and photos by Jasmine Chopra

Pick any 'how to' business book and there will no doubt be a chapter extolling the virtues of nurturing relationships. These books deal extensively with the role that relationships play in making great things happen because it's not just folks with Linked-In profiles who believe relationships matter.

On a recent trip aboard Jacksonville District's survey vessel Florida, a group of more than 20 collaborators met to inspect portions of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway while talking shop, discussing projects, and perhaps most importantly, nurturing relationships.

It is sort of a captive audience, but that is a good thing, according to Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Commissioner for Volusia County, Nancy Freeman.

FIND serves as local sponsor and is a special state taxing district for the continued maintenance and management of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Florida.



Representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Florida Inland Navigation District and state, county, and municipal agencies tour portions of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and participate in presentations May 6 in Florida.



During a tour of portions of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, participants pass through Sebastian Inlet, situated between Brevard and Indian River Counties in Florida.

Freeman has served for about one year. She said she truly appreciated the hours spent aboard Florida meeting with her colleagues, members of Jacksonville District and members of state, county and municipal agencies.

"Being aboard the vessel and traveling the waterway has been a phenomenal opportunity to see some of the projects FIND has been involved with," said Freeman. "Meeting representatives from all the various agencies, putting faces to the names, and really having the time to hear each other's challenges and concerns has been a tremendous experience," she said.

The vessel ferried participants from Fernandina, Fla. to Stuart, Fla. Along the route, members of Jacksonville District, state water management districts, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and several counties' resource management agencies served as presenters. The fantail of Florida doubled as a stage for subject matter experts to address participants.

Eric Summa, environmental branch chief, discussed overcoming environmental obstacles. His talk drew several questions from

(continues on page 12)

U.S. Department *(continued from page 10)*

was established by Jacksonville University to provide a premier biological and environmental research and education facility in Florida with national benefits.

Quinton White, Ph.D., director of the Marine Science Research Institute, an expert on manatees, explained changes to the St. Johns River over the years, and how Florida was divided into water management districts. Visitors asked about the current dredging in Jacksonville, and White and other speakers discussed its relation to the Panama Canal expansion and the placement of dredged material.

Russell Brodie, a fisheries biologist from the Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute, also stationed at Jacksonville University, spoke to the group about fish and fishing.

The roundtable discussions provided a chance for interaction between members of the Corps, Jacksonville University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials, Duval County School Board members and others from institutions around the world in a very personal setting.

"There is the opportunity for much more extended discussion and exchange when the researchers are right here on our campus," White said.

IVLP seeks to build understanding between the United States and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits for current and emerging foreign leaders in government, politics, education, business, media, the arts and other key fields. More than 4,000 IVLP visitors travel to the United States from around the world each year for an average of three weeks. Guests typically visit Washington, D.C. and three additional towns or cities that highlight the diversity of the United States. Jacksonville was selected to participate because of the District's work on environmental issues.

The IVLP program's distinguished alumni include Margaret Thatcher, Anwar Sadat, Giscard D'Estaing, Indira Gandhi, Julius Nyerere, F.W. deKlerk and Tony Blair. ♦

Atlantic (continued from page 11)

participants, including inquiries about what Jacksonville District is doing to prevent harm to manatees. Summa explained that in certain areas, including some in Duval County, dredging occurs only between sunrise and sunset because there is a perception that manatees cannot be detected at night. In fact, Jacksonville District takes every modern measure to ensure manatees are not harmed, including the use of infrared technology and a biologist-observer aboard the dredge to detect manatee presence. Summa is in the process of investigating the feasibility of deploying sonar to detect manatees, for the purpose of determining if dredging hours of operations can be extended beyond the current window. Jacksonville District operations have never killed a manatee.

For some presenters, speaking with funders while on board is instrumental in an era of shrinking state budgets.

"It's pretty evident that without our funders or our volunteers, we could not accomplish our mission fully," said Marc Virgilio, field ecologist with FDEP's Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve.

Virgilio gave a presentation on the Indian River Lagoon Spoil Island Project, while from the vessel, participants could see the area Virgilio described.



Dave Morrison, captain of the survey vessel Florida, discusses operations in the vessel's engine room with Col. Alfred Pantano, Jr., commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District.



Marty Smithson, administrator of the Sebastian Inlet Authority, provides an overview of the Sebastian Inlet as the survey vessel Florida enters the inlet. Jerry H. Sansom, FIND vice-chair for Brevard County and Nancy Freeman, FIND commissioner for Volusia County, look on.

"We are very appreciative of FIND because honestly, state budgets have been suffering and in my agency, we actually had to close our Cocoa Beach office," said Virgilio.

He added that about 10 to 15 percent of his job involves outreach to sponsors, collaborators and volunteers, so opportunities like the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Inspection allow him access to many stakeholders all at once.

According to David Hobbie, deputy district engineer for project management, most of the work the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does requires multi-party collaboration with government agencies, businesses and other types of organizations. Collaboration is much improved when relationships are strong.

Even Jacksonville District Commander, Col. Alfred Pantano, Jr. carved three hours out of his 12-hour workday to hop aboard Florida and meet with participants. He joined on the St. Augustine to Palm Coast leg of the journey, just after a restoration celebration at Rose Bay, followed by an inspection of a disposal site and just before a long list of phone calls and emails. Why? Because relationships matter. ♦

Dredging Up History



BEFORE AND AFTER – On the left is an early 1970's view of the St. Johns River looking down stream toward the Matthews Bridge. The channel was clogged with water hyacinth, an invasive weed that could not be controlled at that time. On the right is the same view in 2003 following diligent work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to keep the invasive plants under control. (USACE historical photos)

Conference recognizes safety stewards



Jerry Balcom, chief of Jacksonville District's Safety and Occupational Health Office, delivers the conference theme presentation, Bridging the Gap. Balcom says the gap can be bridged with accountability, consistency, motivation and networking. (USACE photo)

Story by *Nakeir Nobles*

St. Petersburg, Fla. was the site of the fourth annual Safety Pays Conference, hosted by Jacksonville District May 18-20. This year, the Construction Quality Management for Contractors course was held in conjunction with the conference.

More than 120 participants attended the conference, coming from distances as far away as Canada, Puerto Rico and Maine. Honeywell Safety Product's Rob Adcock, a government sales specialist, said he has been involved with the Safety Pays Conference since it began four years ago.

"This year the conference had much more participation and there seemed to be a lot more participation between Corps contractors and vendors," Adcock said.

This year the conference included sessions on aggressive/distracted driving, code violations, water safety and dredge and crane safety. The conference also included a health screening for participants that included cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings.

"We did 115 screenings," district nurse Sierra Steele said. "One person was hospitalized because of elevated glucose levels and we referred several persons for further evaluations because of their blood pressure results."

The purpose of the Safety Pays program is to reduce accidents by encouraging safety awareness at all levels. It honors team members who participate in reducing the number of accidents in the workplace.

Anthony Santana, safety and occupational health specialist, said the idea for the district's Safety Pays Conference came from former Jacksonville District Construction Division Chief Alan Bugg. Santana said Bugg got the idea from a safety conference held by Mobile District. He wanted a version of that conference for Jacksonville District that would promote safety for government agencies and contractors, promote current technology and identify professionals for networking opportunities.

"We set up a competition once we got it going," Santana said. "We now have people who want to win the award and do better."

This year's Safety Pays winners included Atlantic Civil, Inc., Treviicos South and two-time winner Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company. ♦

2010 Safety Pays winners

A&E General Contractor
Asset Group
Atlantic Civil, Inc.
Caldwell Marine International, LLC
Carter's Contracting Services, Inc.
CGN Engineering Corp.
Cherokee Enterprises
Cottrell Contracting Corporation
Dick Corporation of Puerto Rico, Inc.
Fullard Environmental Controls, Inc.
GOVCON, Inc.
Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, LLC
H & R of Belle Glade, Inc.
Herve Cody Contractor
Inner Space Services, Inc.
J2 Engineering, Inc.
Leno Dredging and Hauling, Inc.
Native American Services Corp.
Norfolk Dredging Company
Optimum Services, Inc.
Orion Dredging Service
Ortiz Group, Inc.
Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.
Southern Dredging Co., Inc.
TEC General Contractor Corp.
The Korte Company, LLC
Treviicos South, Inc.
WRS Infrastructure & Environment, Inc.



Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey, deputy commander, with award winner, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co. (USACE photo)



Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey, deputy commander, with Treviicos South, Inc., presented with the Safety Pays Semi Annual District Safety Award. (USACE photo)

Corps and SFWMD Visit Indian River Lagoon South Project Together



IRLS project management partners Orlando Ramos-Gines, Jacksonville District and Susan Ray, SFWMD, discuss design plans during a joint site visit May 4. (Photo by Derek Martin)

Story by Orlando Ramos-Gines, Senior Project Manager

A May 4 joint visit to the Indian River Lagoon South (IRLS) project area took representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to the site where construction of canals and access roads for the C44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (RSTA) is planned to begin early next year.

The intent of the site visit was to continue strengthening relationships with the customer (SFWMD) and ensure the plans and specifications accurately represent the construction work. Jacksonville District is leading the construction of the C44 RSTA.

Corps attendees included Rafael Velez, engineering technical lead and Keith Jones, senior hydrologist. They were joined by Corps contractors Jason Aberdeen, senior project manager for Everglades Partners Joint Venture; Derek Martin and Stephen Dupries, EnviroTemps, Inc. Professionals and Susan Ray, chief engineer for SFWMD. Ray is the water management district's long-standing and highly experienced IRLS project manager.

"The C44 RSTA is one of the most expected IRLS project components. We are already constructing the necessary relocations and we will complete them by September this year," said Ray.

Martin County residents are greatly concerned about water discharges from Lake Okeechobee. During a recent Martin County Commissioners Board meeting, a resident said, "We want you to stop polluting our water, stop killing our fish, stop killing our oysters and stop putting signs up saying our kids cannot swim in the water."


Community members are asking for solutions. The Corps and its partners are overcoming challenges and look forward to celebrating when construction starts on this project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

The C44 RSTA includes a reservoir with 50,600 acre-feet of storage (3,400 acres) and 6,300 acres of stormwater treatment areas. Construction of the C44 RSTA is planned for completion in 2017. ♦



Col. Al Pantano, Jr., district commander, presents Lt. Col. Nathan Rainey, deputy commander with the Meritorious Service Medal at Rainey's farewell luncheon May 24. Rainey accepted a position with the Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. (Photo by David Kimery)

REGISTER NOW!



US Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District




Regulatory Division 2010 Open House

**Meet the New Chief of Regulatory
at one of these locations:**

June 9	Orlando, Florida
June 22	Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
June 24	Tallahassee, Florida
June 28	San Juan, Puerto Rico
July 2	St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

**For More Information
& to Register go to:**

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Former district employee encourages Jacksonville District team to take risks

Story and photo by Nakeir Nobles

Baltimore District's Chief of Operations, Marie Burns, was welcomed back to Jacksonville District May 4 when she served as the guest speaker for an Asian Pacific Heritage Month event. The month's theme was "Diverse Leadership for a Diverse Workforce."

"It's an honor to be here," Burns said. "Jacksonville is a great district; I had such great experiences here." Burns was formerly Jacksonville District's Planning Division chief.

Burns' presentation, entitled "Taking a Risk," encouraged employees to "get outside of your comfort zone" for career advancement. Burns said, "If your current assignment doesn't seem to be working for you in terms of career advancement, you may have to try something else." She described her career as one that "has been about doing weird, odd things, and some things I didn't think I was capable of doing," like moving to Baltimore. "I was like, 'what have I done?' after I got there."

Burns said those who wish to advance their careers to the next level should consider having a mentor. "I always have a mentor. It is important to talk to those who better understand things than I do," she said. Identifying priorities is important in career advancement, Burns explained. To some, money, family or home ranks high in importance. "I have never taken a job for money, but I have taken a job to pay my rent. The most meaningful work I've found," she said, "has been with the Corps of Engineers. It has allowed me to do a lot of different things."

For those who wish to pursue senior level grades, Burns cites mobility as being a major factor. "Lack of mobility may limit opportunities for senior grades," she said.

Presented to the audience as "an example of diversity," Burns credits her bicultural upbringing with developing her to be the leader she is. While growing up, Burns said, her mother told her, "There's nothing



Chief of Staff Kim Brooks-Hall chats with Marie Burns after Burns' Asian Pacific Heritage Month presentation. Burns, a former district employee is Baltimore District's chief of Operations.

you can't do; you've just got to go for it." Burns added, "To be a leader and to be good, I have to know where I came from."

A philosophy Burns practices is to begin with the end in mind. "Take small bites," she said, "focus on the positive and deal with the negative. And don't be afraid to adjust the end in mind."

Another important aspect of leadership, she added, is to "listen, listen, listen. Listening is probably one of the most important things I do as a leader."

Honestly assessing skills is also important in career advancement. "I've found that I have had to have others help me assess my skills," Burns said. In addition to skill assessment, Burns said understanding limitations, identifying and testing skills, and making an impression all help in furthering careers.

"If you have a good idea, don't sit on it," Burns said.

Also in recognition of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, the Equal Employment Office sponsored a Brown Bag Theater presentation featuring the film *Most Honorable Son*. ♦

Hughes judges Beauclerc Elementary School science fair



Brian Hughes, center, was one of ten judges to participate in a fifth grade science fair at Beauclerc Elementary School May 13. "It was a pleasure to see students use the scientific method to study everyday questions," said Hughes. (USACE photo)

Story by Nancy J. Sticht

Brian Hughes, Engineering Division, was one of ten professionals invited by the Beauclerc Elementary School science committee to judge their fifth grade science fair May 13. Using criteria established by the committee, Hughes and the judging panel reviewed science projects and determined first, second and third place winners.

Hughes said the students had worked on their projects since spring break. Projects were judged on presentation, question being considered, variables, hypotheses, materials, testing, procedures, analysis, charting data, conclusion and overall appearance.

"The teachers were genuinely excited to have someone other than themselves come and look at their students' work," said Hughes.

Some of the topics considered by the students were:

- Which kind of cup was more effective at keeping liquids hot?
- Can you tell the difference between the taste of skim and 1% milk?
- What brand of disinfectant was more effective in killing bacteria?
- How long does it take certain chocolate bars to melt?
- How long does the flavor last for different brands of gum?
- Which material is more conducive to melting ice?
- Do dark colored candles burn faster than light colored candles?

"For me, it was a pleasure to see students use the scientific method to study everyday questions," said Hughes. "This was an opportunity for them to not only learn facts and figures but to come to their own conclusions – education in application. Hopefully, this will help make education an exciting, lifelong journey." ♦

New family readiness assistant helps make district families ready and strong



Oriana Armstrong, Jacksonville District's librarian, discusses the district's new Family readiness network with, left to right, Sue Wilcox of Planning, Maria Eggers, Family readiness assistant, and Dr. Julie Pantano, FRN advisor.

Story and photos by Jasmine Chopra

Since 2003, Jacksonville District has supported 165 civilian personnel deployments in support of Overseas Contingency Operations; since 2002, Jacksonville District has supported 1,512 deployments for disaster response.* Such deployments have many Jacksonville District employees and their families wondering, "What supportive services and resources are available for me and my family, before, during and after deployment?"

Recognizing the need for the right person, whose mission includes supporting deployees and their families, Jacksonville District welcomed Maria Eggers on staff in April. Eggers' professional and personal experiences make her apt for the new family readiness assistant position, said Aaron Stormant, chief of Jacksonville District's Emergency Management Branch.

"We currently have 27 employees deployed and approximately 80 employees have volunteered to deploy in the case of an emergency like a hurricane or an earthquake," said Eggers.

Eggers comes to Jacksonville District after serving in a Family readiness capacity since 2007 with the 3rd Infantry Division, one of the most heavily deployed divisions in the Army. A former Army military police specialist, she has deployed to Bosnia. Her husband, Army Master Sgt. Remy Eggers, continues to serve as a military police specialist. He has deployed overseas five times and the Eggers Family, including the couple's two children, Maria and Justin, have learned healthy strategies to cope with deployment and thrive.

Eggers will aid families and deployees with predeployment, deployments, homecomings, reintegration and back to work preparation. She will also focus on building camaraderie between employees and families.

(continues on page 17)

Commentary from Afghanistan



Comeau inspects a job site in northern Afghanistan. (Photo submitted by Charles Comeau)

Commentary by Charles Comeau

I deployed in the fall of 2009 to Afghanistan Engineering District-North. Upon arrival, I was assigned as resident engineer of the Mazar-e-Sharif Resident office in northern Afghanistan.

As resident engineer, I oversee a project office of three project engineers and three construction representatives. My office is currently managing over 50 separate project sites in five provinces. Over the past six months my team and I have visited many project sites.

Being from Florida, I thought I would freeze here during the winter, but fortunately we had a fairly mild winter. We did have some snow but never much accumulation. However, on our trips up into the mountains, we saw a lot of snow and are still seeing it as we move into early spring.

Afghanistan is not as barren as some may think; it is actually very beautiful, especially in the mountains. I am very thankful for this opportunity to serve in Afghanistan and continue to be amazed at what I get to do each day as part of my job over here.

Charles Comeau is a project manager in the Everglades Division. ♦

Welcome HOME Andy Philips & Webster Shipley

Pictured below is Webster Shipley, a district geologist, with "Okee," Jacksonville District mascot. Okee joined family, friends and a dozen district employees to welcome Shipley home May 27 after he had served in Iraq for approximately one year. (Photo by Jasmine Chopra) A photo of Andy Philips was not available.



New Family (continued from page 16)

Eggers' goals include facilitating the district's Family Readiness Network, a medium by which employees and their families will become better aware of their benefits and entitlements and feel empowered to be self-sufficient, especially during times of mobilization, whether overseas or for domestic disaster response.

"Our Family Readiness Network will make our district different from any other organization because we are actively taking steps to include and communicate with family members using Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp's jigsaw puzzle philosophy: that we are all part of the puzzle and every piece counts, including families," said Eggers.

The FRN will serve as an extension of the district, providing families with information from the command. While the FRN will

be responsible for providing resources to help families solve their own problems, the FRN will not be responsible for directly solving family problems.

Eggers also advised that, "a resilient FRN will require involvement from supervisors, coworkers and families."

She hopes Jacksonville District employees will see the advantages of participating in the network because in the end, the network is for the benefit of employees and their loved ones.

To find out how you can participate in Jacksonville District's FRN, contact Eggers at Maria.Eggers@usace.army.mil. ♦

*Englink statistics



Water Your Mind, READ

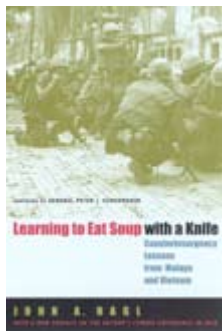
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 **PLAY SAFE!**



BOOK Nook

A "Book of the Month" recommendation from Jacksonville District's librarian and historian Oriana Armstrong.



Counterinsurgency Lessons From Malaya and Vietnam: Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife

by John A. Nagl ©2002

The strange phrase from the sub-title, "Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife," was first coined by Lawrence of Arabia in his description of the messy and time-consuming nature of defeating insurgents.

The author, Lt. Col. John A. Nagl, a veteran of two conflicts in the Middle East, provides insight to help determine why the U.S. Army can appear amazingly innovative in certain respects, yet paradoxically slow to adapt in others. He states "The capacity to adapt is always a key contributor to military success." Comparing the counterinsurgency practice in the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) with the developments in the Vietnam War (1950-1975), Nagl illustrates how armies can adapt to changing circumstances during the course of conflicts, indicating that organizational culture is key to dealing with unanticipated conditions.

One of the book's biggest fans is Joint Forces Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. During his tour in Iraq, Casey was adamant about helping his officers adjust to the demands of guerrilla conflict. Casey considers it a "must read" for academics, officers and military strategists. ♦

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JAXhappenins'

June is National Safety Month

- June 1 – Hurricane Season begins
- June 2 – Jacksonville District's Toastmasters Meeting, Prudential Building, 12th floor conference room, noon-1 p.m. For more information, contact Pam Perkins, (904) 232-3724.
- June 8 – 2010 USACE Planning Conference, Orlando, Fla.
- June 9 – Regulatory Open House, Orlando, Fla.
- June 14 – U.S. Army 235th Birthday; visit the Army's YouTube birthday channel at: www.youtube.com/usarmybirthday
- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 14 & 15 – Executive Dredging Summit, Tampa, Fla.
- June 16 – Jacksonville District's Toastmasters Meeting, Prudential Building, 12th floor conference room, noon-1 p.m. For more information, contact Pam Perkins, (904) 232-3724.
- June 18 – Corps Day - will be held at Adventure Landing, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.
- June 20 – Father's Day
- June 21 – First Day of Summer
- June 22 – Regulatory Open House, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- June 23 – Safety Day and Support Staff Open House, Prudential Building, 2nd floor, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 24 – Regulatory Open House, Tallahassee, Fla.
- June 28 – Regulatory Open House, San Juan, P.R.
- June 29 & 30 – South Atlantic Division Small Disabled Veteran Owner and Small Business Conference, Atlanta, Ga. ♦

In the next



Michael Presley

Civil Engineer

North Florida Area Office

(not exactly in the next cube; however, some day I hope I earn the right to have one!)

- **Time with the district:** 8 years. My boss says that it seems longer.
- **Birth Place:** Roanoke, Va.
- **My hobbies:** Motorcycles, working out, dunking members of the Corporate Board with my sons at Corps Day.
- **My hidden talent is:** Keeping my job AFTER dunking members of the Corporate Board with my sons at Corps Day.
- **If I was district commander for a day, I'd:** Institute a non-retribution policy for well-meaning dunk tank volunteers so some day I could have a cube. ♦

WELCOME TO jacksonville district



Ken Cox
Security and Law
Enforcement
Chief



Jessica Files
Engineering Division
Engineer



Leslie Gill
Human Resources Office
HR Technician



Zafar Hyder
Engineering Division
Civil Engineer



Angel Mathias
Engineering Division
Support Specialist



Jessica Weatherby
Everglades Division
Engineering Coordinator



Partino SHOTS



Good Times with the Federal Fun League



On May 28, two Federal Fun League teams comprised of some of Jacksonville District's employees and spouses competed in a friendly softball match at Willow Branch Park. 1. Going Coastal takes the field; 2. Steve Ross at bat; 3. Lisa Eckert; 4. Going Coastal dugout; 5. Lisa Eckert; 6. Jase Ousley; 7. Aubree Hershorin; 8. Going Coastal dugout; 9. Stephanie Groleau; 10. (From left to right) Jesse Lugo, Matt Borer; 11. (From left to right) Amy Mundell, Geoff Reichold, Brian Hershorin. (Photos by Jasmine Chopra)